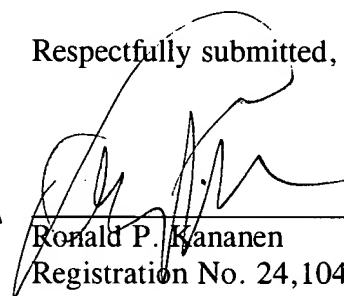


REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment is requested prior to the initial examination of the above-identified patent application to address minor matters of form and syntax and correctly identify the drawings as filed. Additional claims are presented to claim the invention in claims of varying scope. It is believed that no new matter is added. If the Examiner has any suggestions for placing this application in even better form, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned and the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

DATE: October 13, 1999



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